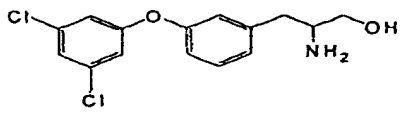
Accordingly, Applicants again respectfully submit that the objection to the specification should be withdrawn.

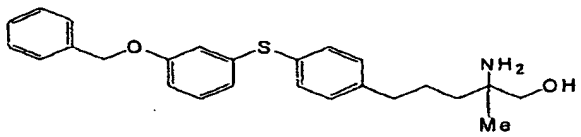
The rejection of claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 2000001388 is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner rejects these claims "in so far as they read on the species defined above". This apparently has reference to the Allowable Subject Matter section on page 3 of the Office Action, wherein, after acknowledging that the elected species remains free of the prior art, the Examiner states that a single additional compound has been searched, which is the compound defined when: R_1=halogen=F; R_2=R_3=R_4=R_5=R_6=R_7=H; X=O; and n=2. **However, R_3 does not include hydrogen in the present claims.** As noted in the Amendment filed November 23, 2007, each of claims 1 and 9, which are the only independent claims in the application, has been amended to delete hydrogen from the definition for R_3. Accordingly, in addition to the difference noted by the Examiner (Applicants' compound is an adjacent homolog of the prior art compound, i.e. the last compound on page 52 of the reference), Applicants' compound also differs from the prior art compound in that the left side phenyl ring in the reference compound does not have any substituent corresponding to R_3 in the presently claimed compounds.

Furthermore, with regard to the Examiner's position that Applicants' compound is an adjacent homolog of the prior art compound (i.e. n = 2 to 4 in the presently claimed compounds), Applicants note that the presently claimed compounds exhibit significant immunosuppressive effects when compared to the compound where n = 1.

Thus, Applicants have examined the immunosuppressive activity of the compound (n = 1), which is the same compound as in Example 109 disclosed on page 72 in the present specification, in accordance with the same method as disclosed in the Example. The resulted immunosuppressive activity is 13% suppression with the dose of 10 mg/kg. On the other hand, the compounds listed in Table 16 on page 147 of the present specification (all compounds have the structure where n = 2 - 4) showed immunosuppressive activities of 41 to 88 % suppression with the dose of from 0.03 to 10 mg/kg. In particular, the compound of Example 185 (n = 3) showed an especially powerful immunosuppressive activity of 88% suppression with the dose of 0.1 mg/kg.





Example 109
13% (10 mg/kg)

Example 185
88% (0.1 mg/kg)

As is clearly shown by these results, the compounds of the present invention where n = 2 - 4 have improved activity as compared to the compounds where n = 1. Furthermore, the cited reference neither mentions any immunosuppressive effects/activities, nor suggests that the compound activity may be significantly improved when n = 2 - 4.

For these reasons, Applicants take the position that the presently claimed invention is clearly patentable over the WO '388 reference.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing remarks, it is submitted that the ground of rejection set forth by the Examiner has been overcome, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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